

The University of Pennsylvania Glee Club

2016-2017



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes
Tour Packet (Internal)

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Introduction

Welcome to the Penn Glee Club's 58th annual tour, *Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes*. The purpose of Tour is to spread the Glee Club and the University's goodwill throughout the world, and to act as informal cultural ambassadors for the people of the United States. Remember that you are representing not only yourself, but also the University and the Glee Club at all times on Tour. The experiences you will have on Tour are supposed to enrich your lives by giving you the opportunity to experience places and peoples that you may never have thought you would have.

The goal of this packet is to provide the necessary information for you to have a safe, fun, and meaningful tour. In its primary function, this packet provides the reference and safety information you might need should an unfavorable situation arise. We have listed contact information for every location we'll be staying on tour. We have also profiled each location to give you detailed background, safety, attractions, and transportation information.

It has been my honor to serve as your Business Manager and Tour Director this year. This trip is the culmination of another incredibly successful year for the Penn Glee Club. I sincerely hope that this trip allows you to form the bonds and memories that make the Glee Club so special. I know that I will never forget the experiences that I will share with you all over the next two weeks.

With love,

Isaac Jorgen' Shapiro

Contributors

Business Manager & Tour Director

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Phuket

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Bangkok

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Contacts Around the Globe

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Lauren & Steven Young

Special Thanks

The Glee Club Graduate Club
Aphichart Assakul
Punnarat Chawwanyen
Roy Jutabha
Liz Manai
Laurie McCall
David Michaels
Jaime Molyneux
Liz O'Connell
Ed Resovsky
Platt Performing Arts House

Lodging Information

I. Bunc Hostel, Singapore

Address: 15 Upper Weld Road, Singapore 207372

Phone: +65 6262 2862 (6262 - BUNC)

Dates: May 19 – May 23

Wifi: Free

Breakfast: Included

24-hour snacks and bar drinks: No

Neighborhood: The nearest MRT station, Rochor MRT Station (Blue Line) is conveniently a 2-minute walk away. Bunc Hostel is within a 10-minute walk from both Little India MRT Station (Blue, Purple Line) and Bugis MRT Station (Blue, Green Line). It is a 10-minute drive from City Hall and a 15-minute drive from Orchard Road. Chinatown, Clarke Quay and Boat Quay are also a 15-minute drive away.

II. Lub D Phuket Patong, Phuket

Address: 5/5 Sawatdirak Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Phone: +66 76 530 100

Dates: May 23 – May 26

Wifi: Free

Breakfast: Included

24-hour snacks and bar drinks: There's a bar

Neighborhood: Only a five minute walk to Patong Beach, Paradise Beach, Bangla Road & Jungceylon Shopping Mall are all a walking distance away from the hostel.

III. Lub D Siam, Bangkok

Address: 925/9 Rama 1 Rd., Wangmai, Patumwan, Bangkok

Phone: +66 2 612 4999

Dates: May 26 – May 30

Wifi: Free

Breakfast: Included

24-hour snacks and bar drinks: There's a bar

Neighborhood: We're right by the Siam Square area so there is a bunch of shopping and food around. Also the National Stadium BTS station is extremely close to Lub D. MBK Shopping centre is directly across from the hostel, and just a short walk to Central World, Siam Paragon & Siam Square Shopping Centers.

Climate

Singapore

- Average High: 88.9°F
- Average Low: 76.6°F
- Precipitation: There will probably be periodic rain most days.

Phuket

- Average High: 91°F
- Average Low: 78.1°F
- Precipitation: There will definitely be thunderstorms and most likely rain as well.

Bangkok

- Average High: 93.9°F
- Average Low: 79.3°F
- Precipitation: Thunderstorms and rain.

Itinerary

Wednesday, May 17 - Departure Day

12:30 - Call at Platt
13:00 - Depart Platt for New York JFK
16:00 - Arrive at JFK and check in
20:55 - Depart JFK for Singapore Changi (SIN) (SQ 025)

Thursday, May 18 - Flight Day

Friday, May 19 - Arrival in Singapore

06:50 - Arrive at SIN and travel to Bunc Hostel (public transit/taxi)
09:00 - Drop off bags at Bunc Hostel and check-in to available rooms
(Some rooms not available for check-in until 15:00)
--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Walk Orchard Road ~ lunch/dinner, sightseeing
[Optional] Visit Arab Street ~ quaint dinner, nightlife, and illuminated mosque

Saturday, May 20 - Lunch & First Performance

--- Free and easy ---
TBD - Depart for lunch hosted by the VP of Penn & Wharton Clubs
16:30 - Depart for American Club of Singapore (public transit/taxi)
17:00 - Arrive at American Club of Singapore and warm up
17:30 - Singers perform in the lobby (30 minutes)
18:15 - Singers perform at L3 for 'elite members' (1 hour)
19:30 - Reception and networking
21:00 - Depart American Club of Singapore
--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Visit Clarke Quay ~ nightlife, bars, clubs (ZOUK)

Sunday, May 21 - Free Day

--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Visit Singapore Botanic Gardens ~ sports, nature
[Optional] Visit Sentosa Island ~ beaches, trams, water park, Merlion statue
[Optional] Visit Gardens by the Bay ~ Cloud Dome, Supertree light show
[Optional] Dinner at Lau Pa Sat ~ Victorian food vendor area with local cuisine

Monday, May 22 - Performances at the Singapore American School

09:45 - Band call in Bunc Hostel lobby
10:00 - Band departs for Singapore American School (public transit/taxi)
10:30 - Singers call in Bunc Hostel lobby
10:45 - Singers depart for Singapore American School (public transit/taxi)
11:00 - Band arrives at Singapore American School and set up for performances
11:55 - Band performs at the Cafeteria Patio (30 minutes)
12:45 - Singers perform in Riady Auditorium (1 hour)
13:45 - Mix and mingle with students

14:00 - Depart Singapore American School

--- Free and easy ---

[Optional] Visit the Central Business District/City Hall ~ Dinner/nightlife at Chijmes

Tuesday, May 23 - Travel Day

09:00 - Group breakfast

10:00 - Call in hostel lobby with bags packed *in travel wear*

10:15 - Depart for SIN (public transit/taxi)

11:30 - Arrive at SIN and check-in

15:00 - Depart SIN for Phuket International (HKT) (3K535)

15:50 - Arrive at HKT and travel to Lub D Phuket Patong (transportation provided)

18:15 - Arrive at Lub D Phuket Patong and check-in

--- Free and easy ---

Wednesday, May 24 - First Performance in Phuket

10:45 - Call in Hostel Lobby

11:00 - Depart for British International School Phuket (transportation provided)

12:00 - Lunch in school

13:30 - Rehearsal with students

15:00 - Snacks with students

16:00 - Singers and band perform in auditorium (1 hour)

17:00 - Mix and mingle with students

17:30 - Depart from British International School Phuket (transportation provided)

18:00 - Arrive at Lub D Phuket Patong

--- Free and easy ---

Have fun but make sure you get some rest for a very long day tomorrow!

Thursday, May 25 - All-Day Island Tour* & Second Performance in Phuket

05:45 - Call in hostel lobby (wear a swimsuit!)

06:00 - Depart for Royal Phuket Marina (transportation provided)

07:00 - Island tour begins (lunch included)

15:00 - Return to Royal Phuket Marina and return to Lub D (transportation provided)

16:00 - Arrive at Lub D Phuket Patong and change quickly into KB

16:25 - Call in lobby

16:30 - Depart for United World College - Thailand (transportation provided)

17:15 - Arrive at United World College - Thailand and set up for performance

18:00 - Singers and band perform in auditorium (90 minutes)

19:30 - Mix and mingle with students

20:00 - Depart from United World College - Thailand (transportation provided)

20:45 - Arrive at Lub D Phuket Patong

--- Free and easy ---

Friday, May 26 - Travel Day and Last Performance

09:00 - Group breakfast

09:45 - Call in hostel lobby with bags packed *in travel wear or KB*

10:00 - Depart for HKT (transportation provided)

11:15 - Arrive at HKT and check in

13:20 - Depart HKT for Don Mueang International (DMK) (DD7505)
14:40 - Arrive at DMK
15:30 - Depart for NIST International School (transportation provided)
16:30 - Arrive at NIST and prepare for performance
18:00 - Singers and band perform in auditorium (90 minutes)
19:30 - Mix and mingle with students
20:15 - Depart for Lub D Bangkok Siam (public transit/taxi)
21:00 - Arrive at Lub D Bangkok Siam and check-in
--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Take in the Nightlife at Khao San Road
[Optional] Shop at a Night Market - Patpong, JJ Green or Rot Fai Ratchada

Saturday, May 27 - Temples, Canals & China Town Tour*

07:45 – Call in Hostel Lobby
08:00 – Depart from tour (transportation provided)
TBD – Lunch provided by tour company
17:30 – Return to Hostel
--- Free and easy ---

Sunday, May 28 - Free Day

--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Visit the Ayutthaya Temples - a UNESCO World Heritage Site
[Optional] Visit a Floating Market - Damnoen Saduak or Amphawa
[Optional] Visit the Erawan Waterfalls, Hellfire Pass and Bridge Over River Kwai

Monday, May 29 - Tour Dinner & Last Night of Tour

--- Free and easy ---
[Optional] Visit the Grand Palace and Royal Temple
[Optional] Visit the Dusit Palace area
18:15 - Depart for Long Table Restaurant (public transit/taxi)
19:00 - Tour dinner at Long Table Restaurant
21:00 - Last night of tour meeting in Column Bangkok Hotel conference room

Tuesday, May 30 - Return Home

03:00 - Depart Column Bangkok Hotel (public transit/taxi)
04:00 - Arrive at Lub D Bangkok Siam
13:15 - Call in hostel lobby with bags packed
13:30 - Depart for Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) (public transit/taxi)
14:45 - Arrive at BKK and check-in
18:30 - Depart BKK for SIN (SQ 979)
21:55 - Arrive at SIN and transfer
23:55 - Depart SIN for JFK (SQ 026)

Wednesday, May 31 - Arrive in New York

11:10 - Arrive at JFK
On your own for return to Philadelphia

Singapore (May 19-23)

I. Background Information

Singapore is an independent city-state in the center of South East Asia. Singapore was originally a small fishing village before British colonization. The British turned Singapore into a hub for transportation and trade due to its unique naturally occurring deep water ports. Singapore gained official independence 50 years ago and has since flourished into a regional power. Primary industries are trade and finance. The state in Singapore is incredibly powerful, controlling news media, entertainment distribution, education, and transportation. Drinking age is 18. All other drugs are illegal and enforcement is serious, especially at the airports and for foreigners.

Exchange Rate: \$1 USD to \$1.40 SGD

Emergency Number: 995

II. Transportation

Singapore has the world's best public transit system.

EzLink Card - All modes (with the exception of taxis) operate on the EzLink Pass system. Get a card at any station or convenience store and put ~S\$20 on it. This will scan on all busses and trains.

MRT - Island-wide train system. Uses EzLink passes. 5 different lines. CLOSES at MIDNIGHT

- Stations for Bunc Hostel
 - Little India (Blue, Purple)
 - Rocher (Blue)
 - Bugis (Blue, Green)

Taxis - Reasonably cheap and very easy to flag down. Runs on a meter.

Busses - Uses EzLink Pass system. Only useful if you go to the outskirts.

GoThereSG Lite - This app will give you step by step directions using public transit.

III. Attractions

Eating

Din Tai Fung - Best dumpling restaurant in the world. Many locations, always busy. Get the Xiao Long Bao (Steamed Pork Dumplings). Decent pricing

- Locations: Paragon, Wisma, Raffles, etc.

Food Courts - Food Republic or Koptiam are reliable and clean. Recommend Pepper Lunch stall (get Beef Pepper Rice). Cheap

Newton Food Court - Classic outdoor hawker center. Cheap local food and drinks, close to Orchard Road

Spice Junction - Good, cheap, safe Indian food in Little India. Located near Bunc.

Brewerkz - Cool local brewery with great beer, burgers, and more western food if you need a little break from local cuisine. Recommend the Clarke Quay location on the river.

Chijmes - Colonial style architecture with many restaurants and bars. Good at night. Slightly more expensive. Nearby iconic Raffles Hotel.

Lau Pa Sat - Restored Victorian outdoor food court with local dishes and great ambiance. Relatively cheap but difficult to get to. In the Central Business District near Raffles Place MRT.

Gong Cha - Best bubble tea. Found everywhere. Cheap

Nightlife

Arab Street - Close to Bunc Hostel. Many small bars with good food and drinks and quaint atmosphere.

Clarke Quay - Primary clubbing/bar district. Best nightlife scene in Singapore. Many smaller bars, restaurants, and clubs. Fairly expensive but great place to be on the weekend. Recommended: ZOUK Club (ranked 4th best dance club in the world, ~S\$35 cover fee. Always worth it).

Places

Orchard Road - Centralized shopping district. Most popular restaurants and malls are found here. Great place to walk around day or night. Recommended: ION Orchard (underground levels have many good shops and amazing food, also one of the largest malls in Singapore).

Marina Bay Area - Newly remodeled downtown bay area. Nice outdoor areas and public space including Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, and Esplanade. Recommended: Gardens by the Bay Cloud Dome (massive chilled indoor arboretum, ~S\$15. Nice to escape the heat.)

Gardens by the Bay - Well landscaped modern gardens with two massive chilled indoor arboreta (Cloud Dome, Flower Dome, ~S\$15 each) nice to escape the heat. Light show at Supertree Grove at 7:45pm, 8:45pm. .

Singapore Botanic Gardens - Massive and well curated park with tropical flora. Recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Be sure to check out Symphony Lake.

Sentosa - Interesting “beach” island south of Singapore, can be reached by car, foot, or tram. Beaches, water parks, etc.

Phuket (May 23-26)

I. Background Information

Phuket is one of the southern provinces of Thailand. It consists of the island of Phuket, the country's largest island, and another 32 smaller islands off its coast. It lies off the west coast of Thailand in the Andaman Sea. Phuket Island is connected by the Sarasin Bridge to Phang Nga Province to the north. The next nearest province is Krabi, to the east across Phang Nga Bay.

Phuket Province has an area of 576 square kilometres, somewhat less than that of Singapore, and is the second-smallest province of Thailand. It formerly derived its wealth from tin and rubber, and enjoys a rich and colorful history. The island was on one of the major trading routes between India and China, and was frequently mentioned in foreign ship logs of Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English traders. The region now derives much of its income from tourism.

The drinking age in Thailand is 20 and drugs are **VERY** illegal. As per the email sent out, you could get the death penalty, so don't bring them.

Exchange Rate: \$1 USD - 34.67฿ (Baht)

Emergency Number: 191

II. Transportation

Buses - The main style of bus in Phuket is called the Songtaew. These vehicles are easily identified by their bright blue paint jobs and open aired seating areas. The Songtaews generally travel between Phuket town and most of the major beach areas. Although a fairly slow means of transportation, they are the least expensive of the transportation options (costing around 10 – 40 Baht). There are no designated stops for the songtaews, but the driver will stop if waved down on the side of the road.

Tuk Tuks - Tuk Tuks are found everywhere and are worth riding for the experience alone. They can be best described as small open aired, four-wheeled vans. They are generally red in color on the island of Phuket. It is always wise to agree on a price before beginning a journey. The price is always negotiable, so don't be afraid to ask for a lower fare. If the driver expects too much, choose another Tuk Tuk. There are plenty. *Some travelers have found Tuk Tuks to be a source of complaints; they can overcharge, be rude, violent or aggressive at times. Use caution if you choose this mode of transportation.*

Motorbike taxis - Motorbike Taxis are the third form of public transportation in Phuket. They are easily identified by their red color, and the drivers usually wear a numbered vest. These can be found everywhere, especially near busy intersections. The fare anywhere within the city limits should not exceed 50 Baht. Once again, make sure to agree on a fare before getting on the bike.

III. Attractions

Eating

- **Street Food** - a variety of street vendors are available in most places around Phuket. Choices range from carts and trucks, which have a variety of Thai cuisine. Some examples are fruit trucks, “hawker stalls,” and motorcycle carts. TripAdvisor and similar sites agree that this is the cheapest option, and the best way to eat authentic Thai food. Some sites say these can have food that will give you stomach problems and such, so use your judgement and follow the guidelines given in the safety and health meetings.
- **Restaurants:** *suggested dining options in the Patong area*
 - **Pan Yaah** - With its seafront location just south of Patong Beach and looking out across the bay, as well as its classy presentation, you would not expect Pan Yaah to be what you would call a common Thai restaurant. However, its fantastic affordable seafood makes it extremely popular with locals.
 - **Sea Hag Restaurant** - An icon of the gay community in Patong – demonstrated by the rainbow flag hanging from the upper balcony – Sea Hag Restaurant is well-known for its great Thai food. As you would expect from the name, seafood dominates the menu, with top choices including steamed lemon fish with rice and huge tiger prawns with dipping sauces.
 - **No. 9 Restaurant** - A simple, no-fuss eatery a short walk from the beach, No. 9 has an impressive menu of inexpensive Thai and international cuisine, making it as popular with tourists as it is with locals.
 - **Aroonsom Patong Food Park** - A collection of extremely popular seafood restaurants along Rat-U-Thit Road, the Aroonsom Food Park includes 89 Seafood and Kusuma Halal Restaurant, both of which draw big crowds of tourists and locals alike.
 - **Sam Chor** - Recommended for breakfast. Sam Chor is commonly known by its slogan of ‘Delicious 24 Hours’ and is popular with locals for its great range of Thai cuisine, including fresh seafood and Isan favourites like Somtam and spicy preparations of duck, squid and fish. It is also a good place to try out Thai breakfasts, including stuffed omelettes or rice soup
 - **Soi Lao** - A virtually unknown side street off Bangla Road, Soi Lao is home to three small Thai restaurants which are the most popular places for the people who work on the busy nightlife hub to eat at. Offerings include a selection of seafood, numerous curries, omelettes and more.

Nightlife

- **Soi Bangla** - Alongside international-standard nightclubs are hundreds of beer bars and dozens of go-go bars, as well as street performers, vendors, lounge bars, games, live music and more.
- **Sunset Bars** - High on Kata Hill overlooking Kata Noi Beach you’ll find three very similar bars called After Beach, Small Viewpoint and Baan Chom. They all play Bob Marley music and they all have fantastic sunset views.
- Various Beach Clubs and Night Clubs
- **Simon Cabaret** - famous cabaret show. Dancers and music. Described as a “transvestite extravaganza”

- **Phuket FantaSea** - a “cultural theme park” that brings guests into a fantasy world and teaches about the culture and history of Phuket.
- **Dinosaur Mini Golf** - mini-golf of the beach. 18 holes of “jurassic madness.”

Places

- **Freedom Beach** - Freedom Beach is an exclusive gem on Phuket’s west coast; the 300m-long strip of white sand is set in a superb bay dotted with granite rocks and surrounded by hills covered by thick and luxuriant jungle. If you like the beach, then you’ll like Freedom Beach. This is an easy way to relax and enjoy each other’s company. Beach pls
- **Paradise Beach** - another beach. This one has a “Koh Phangan-style” beach party venue.
- **Surf House Patong** - a vibrant surf centre on Patong’s Beach Road, just over the road from the Immigration office and the famous sandy Patong Beach beyond. It’s a fun flow ride facility where you can learn to surf in a safe and controlled environment.
- **Outdoor Trek Activities:**
 - **Flying Hanuman** : Eco-friendly and well executed, Flying Hanuman explores the jungle in a decidedly aerial way and offers a chance to discover Phuket's rainforest canopy from a really special angle. Basically, you get to ride a zipline over the jungle.
 - **Kathu Waterfall** : trek through the jungle to come to a beautiful waterfall. A popular weekend spot for locals to chill out and enjoy themselves, Kathu Waterfall consists of a series of drop pools that are sometimes gushing with rainwater and sometimes not.
- **Thai Boxing** - Rapidly gaining popularity all over the world, Muay Thai is an electrifying spectacle to watch. Visit Saphan Hin Stadium in Phuket Town to see regular matches with well-trained martial arts experts. Or try Patong Beach, where you can also see the skill and dexterity of these super-fit fighters.
- **Wat Chalong Temple** - Wat Chalong is one of Phuket's most important temples and is visited by thousands each year. It's beautifully decorated, with infinite reflections from hundreds of tiny glittering glass pieces on its many pagodas.
- **Big Buddha** - Visible from most of the south of Phuket, the giant Buddha image sits on the top of the Nakkerd Hills and looks down over Chalong, Kata and Rawai.
- **Phang Nga Bay** - A day out here is an unforgettable experience that will definitely get you thinking. A distinctive feature of the bay is the sheer limestone cliffs that jut vertically out of the emerald-green waters. These islands are home to sheltered fauna that are possible to observe on certain tours. James Bond Island and Koh Panyee are just two of the more famous spots in this bay.
- **Old Phuket Town** - Sino-Portuguese splendours and **FUNKY** shops in the most unlikely places will surprise and delight you in the heart of Phuket's sleepy provincial capital. Phuket Town offers much more than you think, with some excellent restaurants and local sights. The unique blend of colonial and Chinese architecture, along with a tangible quaintness, makes for a fascinating and unforgettable afternoon spent sauntering around Phuket's Old Town. Expect the unexpected and don't forget your camera.

Bangkok (May 26-30)

I. Background Information

Bangkok is the capital and most populous city of Thailand. It is known in Thai as Krung Thep Maha Nakhon (กรุงเทพมหานคร) or simply Krung Thep. The city occupies 1,568.7 square kilometres (605.7 sq mi) in the Chao Praya River delta in Central Thailand, and has a population of over 8 million, or 12.6 percent of the country's population. Over 14 million people (22.2 percent) live within the surrounding Bangkok Metropolitan Region, significantly dwarfing Thailand's other urban centres in terms of importance.

Bangkok traces its roots to a small trading post during the Ayutthaya Kingdom in the 15th century, which eventually grew and became the site of two capital cities: Thonburi in 1768 and Rattanakosin in 1782. Bangkok was at the heart of the modernization of Siam—later renamed Thailand—during the late 19th century, as the country faced pressures from the West. The city was at the centre of Thailand's political struggles throughout the 20th century, as the country abolished absolute monarchy, adopted constitutional rule and underwent numerous coups and several uprisings. The city grew rapidly during the 1960s through the 1980s and now exerts a significant impact on Thailand's politics, economy, education, media and modern society.

Bangkok is among the world's top tourist destinations. It is named the most visited city in MasterCard's Global Destination Cities Index, and was named "World's Best City" for four consecutive years by *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

As in Phuket, the drinking age is 20 and drugs are **VERY** illegal. As per the email sent out, the death penalty is strongly enforced for bearers, distributors, and importers of drugs.

Exchange Rate: \$1 USD - 34.67฿ (Baht)

Emergency Number: 191

II. Transportation

(To and From Airport)

Airport Rail Link (ARL) - The Airport Rail Link provides an inexpensive and fairly quick rail connection from Suvarnabhumi (BKK) airport to downtown Bangkok. The web site provides a fare and travel time calculator. The currently operating City Line stops at every station; it is full of commuters and a bit slower. At Makkasan station people can walk over a covered footbridge to the Petchaburi MRT station. At Phaya Thai station people can walk over a covered footbridge to Phaya Thai BTS station.

(*Around Bangkok*)

The official **BTS web site** (http://www.bts.co.th/customer/en/02-route-current_new.aspx) provides a route map showing the MRT, ARL, CPE, and even the Bus Rapid System (BRT). It also includes an interactive calculator for travel times and fares, and local maps of the stations.

Canal Boats

- **Chao Praya River Express Boat (CPE):** An easy way to beat the traffic of Bangkok and to see the city from a different perspective. Boats run in both directions and leave every 10-20 minutes. The “Orange Flag Boat” runs from Morning Until Evening.
 - **Cost:** 14 THB for a single ticket regardless of journey length
 - **Avoid/Caution:** Tourist Boats which cost higher at 40 THB, Unlimited On-and-Off Day Cards which cost 150 THB (Unless you plan on travelling a lot by boat)
- **Saen Saep Canal Boat (SSB):** Another boat service with a different route that traverses the Bangkok downtown. Our hostel is walking distance to the Hua Chang Bridge Pier.
 - **Cost:** Not exceeding 20 THB
 - **Stations of Interest:** Hua Chang Bridge Pier (Our Hostel)

Bangkok Transit System (Land Transport)

- **Skytrain (BTS):** An efficient and convenient way to navigate the inner city of Bangkok. There is an EZ-Link-like ticket that you can recharge with money to avoid queueing for tickets or scrounging for change for the machines. The service ends at midnight.
 - **Cost:** On the pricier side, up to \$1 for short distances and \$1.50 for longer distances
 - **Stations of Interest:** National Stadium (Our Hostel)
 - **Avoid/Caution:** Doesn’t go everywhere, so taxis and tuk-tuk rides might still be necessary. Service ends at **midnight**.
- **Subway (MRT):** An addition to the Skytrain that gives access to more areas than the Skytrain already does. There are interchanges at Silom and at Asoke where you can change between the Subway and the Skytrain, and vice versa. However, systems are independent of each other and not handy to use in tandem.
 - **Cost:** Cheaper option, 8-40 THB

Other Land Transport

- **Taxis:** One of the best ways to get around the city if you want to avoid negotiating the BTS systems. Late at night, taxis are the most convenient as the Skytrain and Subway do not operate after midnight.
 - **Cost:** The fare meter starts at 35 THB and goes up from there.
 - **Avoid/Caution:** Taxis that try to negotiate a fare. This is illegal.
- **Public (BMTA) Buses:** There is a huge network of buses in the city, but little English language route information is available, though they are supposedly not difficult to figure out.
- **Tuk-Tuks:** A motorized three-wheeler seen all over a city. Some people say a trip to Bangkok isn’t complete unless you ride in a Tuk-tuk.
 - **Cost:** Anywhere from 20-30 THB
 - **Avoid/Caution:** There is no meter on the Tuk-tuk, so agree to a price and haggle down 5-15 THB from their opening price; Be aware of “Mafia” Tuk-tuk drivers that will tell you of “secret” shopping areas or that major attractions are “closed” and that they know “better” places; Do not get down at a location unless you’re absolutely sure of it. Keep insisting on the right location or on “No pay” if they insist the location is right even when it’s not; Do not ride a Tuk-tuk during rush hour (7-9 AM or 4-7PM) as fumes are very bad in Bangkok; Use a Tuk-tuk only for short rides. Sometimes taxis might be a cheaper alternative!

III. Attractions

Eating

Thai cuisine is characterized by balance and strong flavors, especially lime juice, lemon grass and fresh coriander, the combination of which gives Thai food its distinctive taste. In addition, Thai food has a deserved reputation for being spicy. Thais are well aware that these can be more than Westerners can handle and will often ask if you like it hot (ເຝັດ phet); answer "yes" at your own risk!

Recommended Local Dishes

- **Phad Thai** (ຟັດໄທຍ), literally "Thai stir-fry", means thin rice noodles fried in a tamarind-based sauce. Ubiquitous, cheap and often excellent - and as an added bonus, it's usually chili-free (you can add yourself, however, or ask to do if buying of the street - but be warned, it is often really hot). Can be made vegetarian, with shrimp, pork, or chicken.
- **Tom Yam Goong** (ຕົມຢ້າກົງ) is the quintessential Thai dish, a spicy, sour soup with prawns, lemongrass and galangal. The real thing is quite spicy, but toned-down versions are often available on request.
- **Tom Kha Gai** (ຕົມຂ່າໄກ) is the Thai version of chicken soup in a rich galangal-flavored coconut stock, with mushrooms and not a few chillies.
- **Gaeng ped** (ແກ່ງເຝັດ, "red curry") this coconut-based red curry dish can be spicy. Red curry with roast duck (kaeng phet Bped yaang ແກ່ງເຝັດເປີດຢ່າງ) is particularly tasty.
- **Gaeng kheow-waan** (ແກ່ງເຊື້ອວຫານ), sweet green curry, is a coconut-based curry with strong accents of lemongrass and kaffir lime. Usually milder than the red variety.
- **Ka-phrao kai** (ກະພຣາໄກ), literally "basil chicken" is a simple but intensely fragrant stir-fry made from peppery holy basil leaves, chillies and chicken.
- **Gai hor bai toey** (**Thai Pandan-Wrapped Chicken**) Pandan, the aromatic leaves of a perennial grass, are wrapped around chunks of coconut-milk-marinated chicken, steamed, and finally deep-fried in this sweet-savory Thai recipe.
- **Khao niao ma-muang** (ຂ້າວເໜີມາມະມຸງ) means "sticky rice with mango", and that's what you get, sweetened sticky rice and ripe mango with some coconut milk drizzled on top. Filling and delicious and an excellent way to cool the palate after a spicey Thai dish!

Street Food

While not particularly high class, street food is among the most delicious food and can be found all over Bangkok — wherever you're staying, you rarely have to walk more than 100m for a cart of street restaurant.

Recommended Bars

- **Sky Bar:** Made even more famous by hosting the Hangover II boys during filming in Bangkok, Sky Bar rooftop at Lebua State Tower offers one of the best views in the city. 63 floors up and overlooking the river, it has become a must-do for a sundowner cocktail. (BTS: Saphan Taksin)
- **Vertigo and Moon Bar:** There is no lack of rooftop bars in town but Vertigo has always been amongst the favourites. With an unusual narrow and elongated shape, the entire top of

the building is occupied by both the bar and the restaurant and gives the unusual impression of being aboard a spaceship in the sky.

Nightlife

Soi Cowboy: Soi Cowboy has a more laid-back, carnival-like feel to it than Patpong or Nana Plaza. Flashing neon lights up a colourful streetscape of 20 or so A go-go bars that line its sides. Entry is always free and drink prices are fixed. (BTS: Asok; MRT: Sukhumvit)

Nana Plaza: Nana Plaza is notorious for its racy themed go-go bars. It's three storeys of eye-popping activity all focus around a square-shaped central atrium. Unlike at the better-known Soi Cowboy or Patpong, Nana Plaza is a 'more adult' scene. That means no families, no markets and few curious tourists strolling in for a look. It is a popular venue for those in the mood for an exotic visual experience. (BTS: Nana)

Khao San Road: Packed into a 1km long strip are countless budget guesthouses and mid-range hotels, internet cafes, swanky bars and clubs, restaurants, massage parlours, travel agents, bookshops, market stalls, tattoo shops and much, much more. So much in fact, that the people, peddlers and party spirit have spilled over into nearby **Soi Rambuttri**. With its carefree, anything-goes vibe, it's quite unlike anywhere else in Bangkok, and so infectious is its atmosphere it's also popular with locals, especially young hipsters and art students. (Taxi)

Royal City Avenue (RCA): Royal City Avenue - more commonly known as RCA - is the epicentre of Bangkok's clubbing scene and an officially designated nightlife zone so you can be assured of a party seven nights a week. Clubbing institutions like Route 66 and Slim are packed every night and, at weekends, they're rammed to capacity. (MRT: Rama IX or Phetchaburi; SSB: Wat Mai Chonglom or Soi Thonglor)

Places

- Temples:
 - **Wat Pho:** Wat Pho houses the largest collection of Buddha images in Thailand, including a 46 m long reclining Buddha. (CPE: Tha Tien)
 - **Wat Arun:** Wat Arun, locally known as Wat Chaeng, is situated on the west (Thonburi) bank of the Chao Phraya River. Wat Arun (or temple of the dawn) is partly made up of colourfully decorated spires and stands majestically over the water. (From Tha Tien, use the Tha Tien-Wat Arun Cross River Ferry)
 - **Wat Traimit:** Located at the end of Chinatown's Yaowarat Road, near Hualampong Railway Station, Wat Traimit houses the world's largest massive gold seated Buddha measuring nearly five metres in height and weighing five and a half tons. (Taxi)
 - **Wat Suthat and the Giant Swing:** Wat Suthat, better known for the towering red Giant Swing that stands at its entrance, is one of the oldest and most impressive temples in Bangkok. It features an elegant chapel with sweeping roof, magnificent wall murals and exquisite hand-carved teakwood door panels. (Taxi)
 - **The Golden Mount Temple (Wat Saket):** Wat Saket, popularly known as the Golden Mount or 'Phu Khao Thong', is a low hill crowned with a gleaming gold chedi. Within, the 58-metre chedi houses a Buddha relic and welcomes worshippers all year round. (Taxi)

- **The Marble Temple (Wat Benchamabophit):** Wat Benchamabophit Dusitvanaram is a Buddhist temple in the Dusit district of Bangkok, Thailand. Also known as the marble temple, it typifies Bangkok's ornate style of high gables, stepped-out roofs and elaborate finials. (Taxi)
- **Other Sites In Bangkok:**
 - **Grand Palace and Royal Temple:** Built in 1782 - and for 150 years the home of the Thai King, the Royal court and the administrative seat of government - the Grand Palace of Bangkok continues to have visitors in awe with its beautiful architecture and intricate detail. Within the palace complex are several impressive buildings including Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha), which contains the small, very famous and greatly revered Emerald Buddha that dates back to the 14th century. (CPE: Tha Chang Pier or Tha Tien)
 - **Night Markets:** Bangkok is world-renown for its night markets, most of which open until very late at night. Recommended night markets include the Rot Fai Markets in Srinakarin (Taxi) and Ratchada (MRT: Thailand Cultural Center), the Patpong Night Market (BTS: Sala Daeng; MRT: Sam Yan, Si Lom), JJ Green Night Market (BTS: Mo Chit; MRT: Chatuchak), and the Dusit Night Market.
 - **Chatuchak Weekend Market:** The Chatuchak Weekend Market is the largest market in Thailand. Also known as JJ Market, it has more than 8,000 stalls, divided into 27 sections. The clock tower is a distinctive landmark in the Chatuchak Market (BTS: Mo Chit; MRT: Kamphaeng Phet)
 - **Shopping Malls:** Bangkok is a shopper's paradise, with many One-Stop-Shopping malls that make it possible to spend a day "mall-hopping" to avoid the heat. Some of the most famous malls are MBK (Walking Distance), Platinum (SSB: Pratu Nam), Siam Paragon (Walking Distance), and Emporium (BTS: Phrom Phong).
 - **Asiatique the Riverfront:** One of the most popular shopping experiences in the city with over 1,500 boutiques and 40 restaurants housed under a huge replica warehouse complex that is a combination of a night bazaar and a mall. Open from 5PM to midnight. (BTS: Saphan Taksin, then CPE: Wat Rajsingkorn)
 - **Jim Thompson House:** The Jim Thompson House is a museum housing the art collection of American businessman and architect Jim Thompson, the museum designer and former owner. Built in 1959, the museum spans one rectangular "rai" of land (approximately half an acre), sporting vibrant jungle foliage in the heart of the city. (BTS: National Stadium; SSB: Hua Chang Bridge)
 - **Lumpini Stadium:** Lumpini Stadium is known the world over as the symbol of Muay Thai. Muay thai contests are held every Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The fights usually start around 6:00 p.m and keep going for as long as necessary. Ticket prices range from 200 to 2,000 baht. (Taxi)
 - **Dusit Palace:** A compound of royal residences. Two of the most important buildings are the **Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall** and the **Vimanmek Mansion**, a Victorian style former royal villa. (Note: You can enter for the Vimanmek Mansion **for free** with a Grand Palace ticket). Dance Performances are held near the Vimanmek Mansion every day at 10.30 AM and 2 PM. (Taxi)
 - **SeaLife Ocean World:** Sea Life Bangkok Ocean World (formerly, Siam Ocean World) is an aquarium in Bangkok, Thailand, the largest in South East Asia. (Walking Distance)

- **Day-Trips Outside Bangkok:**
 - **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market:** Damnoen Saduak is the most popular floating market in Thailand. An early morning start is worth it to avoid the heat and catch Damnoen Saduak at its liveliest. The market is over an hour outside Bangkok, and the easiest way to get there is to join a tour.
 - **Amphawa Floating Market:** Amphawa is the second most popular floating market near Bangkok, not as large as Damnoen Saduak but more authentic, with visitors almost exclusively Thai. The main draw is eating seafood grilled on wooden boats moored around the famous central bridge, serving an appetizing array of huge prawns, shellfish and squid. Open all day.
 - **Ayutthaya Temples and Ruins:** Ayutthaya is 76 kilometres north of Bangkok and boasts numerous magnificent ruins. The ruins indicate that Ayutthaya was one of Southeast Asia's (and probably the world's) most prosperous cities in the 17th Century and beyond. Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Historical Park, a vast stretch of historical site in the heart of Ayutthaya city, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since December 13, 1991.

Tour Roster				
Roll Call #	Last Name	First Name	Primary Membership	Notes
1	Shapiro	Isaac	Singer	
2	Glassman	Josh	Director	
3	Adams	Jasmine	Tech	
4	Block	Andrew	Singer	
5	Cano	Derek	Singer	
6	Combs	Malcolm	Singer	
7	Drobnick	Will	Band	
8	Du	Austin	Singer	
9	Enriquez	Marjon	Singer	Separate Return
10	Finkel	Mack	Band	
11	Goodson	Jon	Singer	
12	Grisham	Sam	Singer	
13	Havaldar	Jay	Band	
14	Howard	Matt	Singer	
15	Hunsicker	Nick	Tech	Separate Return
16	Jaramillo	Susanna	Tech	
17	Jean	Michael	Band	
18	Jonathan	Michael	Singer	Separate Return
19	Kim	Hyungtae	Singer	
20	Lee	Jae Joon	Singer	Separate Return
21	Li	Jason	Singer	
22	Lo	Pearl	Tech	
23	Luo	Brian	Singer	Separate Return
24	Malkani	Bhavish	Singer	
25	Martino	Ariana	Tech	
26	McCurry	Ian	Singer	
27	Orlin	Sam	Band	
28	Owusu	Kwaku	Singer	
29	Pak	Gene	Singer	Separate Return
30	Paolini	Jimmy	Singer	
31	Paolucci	Topher	Accompanist	
32	Peters	Matt	Singer	
33	Rinaldi	Toni	Singer	
34	Saccone	Alex	Band	
35	Samuelson	Michael	Singer	
36	Shao	Grant	Tech	

37	Silbert	David	Singer	
38	Soik	Sam	Singer	
39	Stanczak	Christopher	Band	
40	Stanton	Liam	Band	
41	Wax	Jacob	Singer	
42	Weinstein	Aaron	Singer	Separate Return
43	Welde III	Jake	Singer	
44	Wilson	Kyle	Tech	
45	Young	Ryan	Singer	
46	Cohney	Shaanan	Singer	Joining late. Separate Return